(b) the amounts given to the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes, adivasis and backward classes under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme; and

(c) the position of overdues on such advances separately in respect of advances given under the DRI scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Advances to Priority Sectors by Public Sector Banks in the State of Bihar stood at Rs. 591 crores, Rs. 732 crores and Rs. 861 crores respectively as at the end of December, 1983, December, 1984 and December, 1985.

(b) Advances to SC/ST under DRI Scheme by Public Sector Banks in the State of Bihar stood at Rs. 11.8 crores, Rs. 12.2 crores and Rs. 12.8 crores respectively as at the end of December, 1983, December, 1984 and December, 1985.

(c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Increase in Bank dacoities in the Country

1125. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the increasing number of Bank dacoities/robberies in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the bank robberies during the year 1986 and during January and February, 1987 in which the amount looted was one crores or above;

(c) the manner in which the banks make up such losses; and

(d) what further security measures Government propose to take to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India has intimated that during 1984, 1985 and 1986 public sector banks reported to it 77, 76 and 106 cases respectively.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has intimated that two cases of bank robberies were reported to it by public sector banks during the year 1986 and 1987 (upto 27-2-87) in which an amount of Rs. one crore and above was looted.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that immediately on the occurence of dacoity/robbery, Police are informed and in case the culprits are apprehended the amount is recovered with the help of Police. RBI has further reported that banks generally take a blanket insurance cover for their cash on/in the counter/safe and in transit. The banks lodge claim with the insurance companies and recover the amount from them.

(d) Bank robberies/dacoities, to a considerable extent, depend on the general security environment in the locality. Banks, however, have been taking steps to improve their security arrangements so as to offer as little inducement as possible to miscreants to rob banks and also to deter them. As this is a continuous process, security measures implemented by public sector banks are being reviewed from time to time and whenever further improvements are considered necessary, requisite guidelines/instructions are given to the banks.

Opening of Poona Airport Runway

1126. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the runway at Poona Airport, which is undergoing repairs, is likely to be opened to civilian air traffic; and